

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating electronic data in a manner that identifies a sender, the method comprising:

receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

identifying the sender at the intermediary, wherein identifying the sender comprises:

determining an address from which the electronic data is received; and

determining a sender identifier based on the address from which the electronic data is received, wherein determining the sender identifier includes determining a user-defined identifier based on the address from which the electronic data is received;

changing the electronic data to include ~~a~~the sender identifier based on the identifying performed at the intermediary; and

forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended recipient.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the sender is not a host.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sender identifier comprises at least an Internet Protocol address.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the sender identifier comprises more than an Internet Protocol address.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sender identifier comprises a screen name.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sender identifier comprises account information.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sender identifier comprises information identifying a person.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the intermediary comprises a layer 4 redirection program.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein identifying the sender at the intermediary comprises identifying the sender based upon a data packet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving electronic data includes receiving an electronic mail message.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~1 wherein determining the address includes determining an Internet protocol address.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~1 wherein the user-defined identifier comprises a screen name corresponding to the sender.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
changing the electronic data comprises appending to the electronic data the sender identifier; and

forwarding the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the electronic data along with the appended sender identifier.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein appending the sender identifier includes appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a message to be blocked;

blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

wherein forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked using a level 4 redirection program.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked based upon a data packet.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked based upon the identification of the sender.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking the electronic data using a level 4 redirection program.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking the electronic data based upon a data packet.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking the electronic data based upon the identification of the sender.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data relates to undesirable news postings such that electronic data having characteristics of undesirable news postings is blocked.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam such that electronic data having characteristics of spam is blocked.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25 wherein~~ 25 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam comprises:

counting a number of connections that are open with the sender; and

determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of connections that are open with the sender exceeds a threshold number.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the threshold number is configurable.
28. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking future electronic data from the sender for at least a period of time when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.
29. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam comprises:
- counting a number of communications of electronic data that have been received from the sender during a period of time; and
 - determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of messages received from the sender exceeds a threshold number during the period of time.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the period of time is configurable.
31. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the sender includes identifying an initial source that generated the electronic data.
32. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising redirecting the received electronic data from the intended recipient to a computing device capable of performing at least the identifying.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein redirecting the received electronic data comprises changing a destination address associated with the received electronic data from the intended recipient to the computing device.

34. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for communicating electronic data using a computer, the computer program comprising:

a receiving code segment for receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

an identifying code segment for identifying the sender, wherein the identifying code segment comprises:

a first determining code segment for determining at least an address from which the electronic data is received, and

a second determining code segment for determining a sender identifier based at least on the address from which the electronic data is received, wherein the second determining code segment includes a code segment for determining a user-defined identifier based on the address from which the electronic data is received;

a changing code segment for changing the electronic data to include a the sender identifier based on the identification of the sender; and

a forwarding code segment for forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended recipient.

35. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the sender is not a host.

36. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the sender identifier comprises at least an Internet Protocol address.

37. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the sender identifier comprises more than an Internet Protocol address.

38. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the sender identifier comprises a screen name.

39. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the sender identifier comprises account information.

40. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the sender identifier comprises information identifying a person.

41. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the intermediary comprises a layer 4 redirection program.

42. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 41 wherein the identifying code segment is configured to identify the sender based upon a data packet.

43. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the identifying code segment comprises a layer 4 redirection program.

44. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the changing code segment comprises a layer 4 redirection program.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the receiving code segment includes a code segment for receiving an electronic mail message.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 47-34 wherein the first determining code segment includes a code segment for determining an Internet protocol address.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 47-34 wherein the second determining code segment includes a code segment for determining a screen name corresponding to the sender.

51. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein:

the changing code segment comprises an appending code segment for appending the sender identifier to the electronic data.

52. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 51 wherein the appending code segment includes a code segment for appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

53. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the computer program further comprises:

a determining code segment for determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

a blocking code segment for blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked,

wherein the forwarding code segment comprises a code segment for forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

54. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the determining code segment is a level 4 redirection program.

55. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the determining code segment is configured to determine whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked based upon a data packet.

56. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the determining code segment is configured to determine whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked based upon the identification of the sender.

57. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable of claim 53 wherein the blocking code segment is a level 4 redirection program.

58. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the blocking code segment is configured to block the electronic data based upon a data packet.

59. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein ~~blocking the electronic data comprises blocking~~the blocking code segment is configured to block the electronic data based upon the identification of the sender.

60. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the determining code segment comprises a code segment for determining whether the

electronic data relates to undesirable news postings such that electronic data having characteristics of undesirable news postings is blocked.

61. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the determining code segment comprises a code segment for determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam such that electronic data having characteristics of spam is blocked.

62. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 61 wherein the code segment for determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam comprises:

- a code segment for counting a number of connections that are open with the sender; and
- a code segment for determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of connections that are open with the sender exceed a threshold number.

63. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 62 wherein the threshold number is configurable.

64. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 53 wherein the blocking code segment comprises a code segment for blocking future electronic data from the sender for at least a period of time when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

65. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 61 wherein the code segment for determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam comprises:

a code segment for counting a number of communications of electronic data that have been received from the sender during a period of time; and

a code segment for determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of messages received from the sender exceeds a threshold number during the period of time.

66. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 65 wherein the threshold number is configurable.

67. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 65 wherein the period of time is configurable.

68. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 34 the computer program further comprising a redirecting code segment for redirecting the received electronic data from the intended recipient to a computing device capable of at least identifying the ~~sender~~sender.

69. (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 68 wherein the redirecting code segment comprises a code segment for changing a destination address associated with the received electronic data from the intended recipient to the computing device.

70-82 (Cancelled).

83. (New) A method for communicating electronic data in a manner that identifies a sender, the method comprising:

receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

identifying the sender at the intermediary, wherein identifying the sender comprises:
determining an address from which the electronic data is received, wherein
determining the address includes determining an Internet protocol address; and
determining a sender identifier based on the address from which the electronic
data is received;
changing the electronic data to include the sender identifier based on the identifying
performed at the intermediary; and
forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended
recipient.

84. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein the sender identifier comprises a
screenname.

85. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein receiving electronic data includes
receiving an electronic mail message.

86. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein:
changing the electronic data comprises appending to the electronic data the sender
identifier; and
forwarding the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the electronic data along
with the appended sender identifier.

87. (New) The method of claim 86 wherein appending the sender identifier includes
appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

88. (New) The method of claim 83 further comprising:
determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a
message to be blocked;

blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

wherein forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

89. (New) The method of claim 88 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises:

counting a number of communications of electronic data that have been received from the sender during a period of time; and

determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of messages received from the sender exceeds a threshold number during the period of time.

90. (New) A tangible computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for communicating electronic data using a computer, the computer program comprising:

a receiving code segment for receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

an identifying code segment for identifying the sender, wherein the identifying code segment comprises:

a first determining code segment for determining at least an address from which the electronic data is received, wherein the first determining code segment includes a code segment for determining an Internet protocol address, and

a second determining code segment for determining a sender identifier based at least on the address from which the electronic data is received;

a changing code segment for changing the electronic data to include the sender identifier based on the identification of the sender; and

a forwarding code segment for forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended recipient.

91. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 90 wherein the sender identifier comprises a screen name.

92. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 90 wherein the receiving code segment includes a code segment for receiving an electronic mail message.

93. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 90 wherein:
the changing code segment comprises an appending code segment for appending the sender identifier to the electronic data.

94. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 93 wherein the appending code segment includes a code segment for appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

95. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 90 wherein the computer program further comprises:

a determining code segment for determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

a blocking code segment for blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked,

wherein the forwarding code segment comprises a code segment for forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

96. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 95 wherein the code segment for determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises:

- a code segment for counting a number of connections that are open with the sender; and
- a code segment for determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of connections that are open with the sender exceed a threshold number.

97. (New) A method for communicating electronic data in a manner that identifies a sender, the method comprising:

- receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

- identifying the sender at the intermediary;

- changing the electronic data to include a the sender identifier based on the identifying performed at the intermediary;

- forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended recipient;

- determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a message to be blocked;

- blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

- wherein forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

98. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked using a level 4 redirection program.

99. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked based upon a data packet.

100. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked based upon the identification of the sender.

101. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking the electronic data using a level 4 redirection program.

102. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking the electronic data based upon a data packet.

103. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking the electronic data based upon the identification of the sender.

104. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data relates to undesirable news postings such that electronic data having characteristics of undesirable news postings is blocked.

105. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam such that electronic data having characteristics of spam is blocked.

106. (New) The method of claim 105 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam comprises:

counting a number of connections that are open with the sender; and
determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of connections that are open with the sender exceeds a threshold number.

107. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein the threshold number is configurable.

108. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein blocking the electronic data comprises blocking future electronic data from the sender for at least a period of time when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

109. (New) The method of claim 105 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of spam comprises:

counting a number of communications of electronic data that have been received from the sender during a period of time; and

determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of messages received from the sender exceeds a threshold number during the period of time.

110. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the period of time is configurable.

111. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein the sender identifier is a sender-selected identifier.

112. (New) A method for communicating electronic data in a manner that identifies a sender, the method comprising:

receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

identifying the sender at the intermediary;

changing the electronic data to include the sender identifier based on the identifying performed at the intermediary;

forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended recipient; and

redirecting the received electronic data from the intended recipient to a computing device capable of performing at least the identifying.

113. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein the sender identifier comprises a screenname.

114. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein receiving electronic data includes receiving an electronic mail message.

115. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein:
changing the electronic data comprises appending to the electronic data the sender identifier; and
forwarding the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the electronic data along with the appended sender identifier.

116. (New) The method of claim 115 wherein appending the sender identifier includes appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

117. (New) The method of claim 112 further comprising:
determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a message to be blocked;

blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

wherein forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data comprises forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

118. (New) The method of claim 117 wherein determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises:

counting a number of communications of electronic data that have been received from the sender during a period of time; and

determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of messages received from the sender exceeds a threshold number during the period of time.

119. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein the sender identifier is a sender-selected identifier.

120. (New) A tangible computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for communicating electronic data using a computer, the computer program comprising:

a receiving code segment for receiving electronic data at an intermediary located between a sender and an intended recipient of the electronic data;

an identifying code segment for identifying the sender;

a changing code segment for changing the electronic data to include the sender identifier based on the identification of the sender;

a forwarding code segment for forwarding at least a selected portion of the changed electronic data to the intended recipient; and

a redirecting code segment for redirecting the received electronic data from the intended recipient to a computing device capable of at least identifying the sender.

121. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 120 wherein the sender identifier comprises a screen name.

122. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 120 wherein the receiving code segment includes a code segment for receiving an electronic mail message.

123. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 120 wherein:
the changing code segment comprises an appending code segment for appending the sender identifier to the electronic data.

124. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 123 wherein the appending code segment includes a code segment for appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

125. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 120 wherein the computer program further comprises:

a determining code segment for determining whether the electronic data received from the sender has characteristics of a message to be blocked; and

a blocking code segment for blocking the electronic data when the electronic data is determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked,

wherein the forwarding code segment comprises a code segment for forwarding the changed electronic data that is not determined to have characteristics of a message to be blocked.

126. (New) The tangible computer readable medium of claim 125 wherein the code segment for determining whether the electronic data has characteristics of a message to be blocked comprises:

a code segment for counting a number of connections that are open with the sender; and
a code segment for determining that the electronic data has characteristics of spam to be blocked when the number of connections that are open with the sender exceed a threshold number.

127. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein appending the sender identifier includes appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.

128. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein appending the sender identifier includes appending the sender identifier as a header to the electronic data.